

# Day Program Questions

## Response from Thumbs Up!

### 1. What is the ratio of consumers to staff?

We adjust the ratio to fit the needs of the consumers and staff at Thumbs Up! are expected to be flexible with their job descriptions and their hours. We have a consumer that needs 1 to 1 because of behaviors he has. We have another consumer that is non-verbal and when he is working on his flip-book (a homemade communication device), it's one on one. We have a consumer who wants to live on his own and when we are teaching him how to use the oven, one on one. The work crew often has only two people that go out and rarely more than four. On the other hand, when we are going to the movies, my van will hold 6 people and that's how many I take.

### 2. Does the program have a behavioral component?

Currently, we have one consumer that is on a behavioral plan and we utilize PATCH so he can get the support he needs to be successful within the context of the group.

### 3. Does the program have an education component?

Thumbs Up! participates in the Tuolumne county Adult literacy Services Reading Plus! program and offers individual tutoring in English, math speech and related living skills areas. Reading Plus! Class activities have included The Reading Plus! Poetry project, the Doc Savage Science lab and our annual Comic book Swap Meet. Our Computer lab features five on-line cubicles for student use.

### 4. Staff qualifications, such as fluent in Spanish, ASL, PECS, etc?

Not answered.

### 5. Is there medical staff on site?

No

### 6. Can the facility accommodate wheelchairs, diaper changing?

We are wheelchair friendly. Although we expect basic bowel and bladder control from our consumers, we have consumers that are brushing up on their basic toileting skills and we do support them.

### 7. Does the program have an arts component, if so, which arts, music, dance, theater, crafts?

The Thumbs Up! Players are a performance troupe started in conjunction with the Tuolumne County Adult literacy Services. In adapting the county Reading Plus! Program to fit the needs of those with severe learning disabilities, it was agreed that literacy in it's fullest sense meant the ability to communicate. We began experimenting with performance art and have since become an integral part of the library's children services. Attendance more than doubled when Story Time became Jedi Training Camp or a Hogwarts Summer School. Thumbs Up! Was responsible for naming "Worlds of Wonder", the county's new mobile library and the players often travel with the bus on its rounds. The Thumbs Up! Players lead Story Time at Starbucks, and run the Children's pavilion at the Celtic Fair.

The Thumbs Up! Booth at the City of Sonora Spring Festival featured handcrafted items which all later garnered first place ribbons at the Mother Lode fair. After 5 years trying (we won second place last year), we received the first place trophy for our entry in the 2003 Mother Lode Round Up Parade, the largest parade in the state with the exception of the Rose Bowl.

8. Does the program have a sports component, if so, which sports?

We have a bowling team. Almost everyone has their own ball and shoes.

9. How often do consumers have community outings - daily weekly, monthly, seldom, never?

We're out in the community every day - working, volunteering, or enjoying social/rec. consumer driven, the consumers pick the activities they want at our monthly planning meeting.

10. How often to consumer have overnight outings - monthly, quarterly, seldom, never?

Seldom.

11. How do program participants get to and from program?

We have our own bus we pick up people up with. And we are vendored for transport.

12. Is public transportation used daily, weekly, monthly, seldom, never?

We have consumers who are in training to use transit & use both our transportation and the public systems.

13. Does the program offer supported employment?

No.

14. Does the program offer work groups (enclaves)?

We have a yard maintenance crew that goes out each day. Our work crew cannot keep up with the demand, especially during this time of the year. We do not use time trials, rather we start our workers at minimum wage.

15. Do the consumers do volunteer work through the program?

Thumbs Up! Believes Community is not just a place where you live, but something you create, and uses that model in our integration strategies.

Our "Happy Baggers" have been recognized by the Board of Supervisors for their work collecting and distributing food for the Food Bank. Each member of the crew was awarded the Hunger Fighter Award by the Amador, Tuolumne Community Action Agency and all are certified in safe food handling and good employee practices. We perform various duties three or more days a week including mentoring the Transition students.

Delivering head Start meals and helping the National Forest Service maintain public access areas are also part of our volunteer component.

16. Does the program offer supported living training?

We have a very active Supported Living program with a full time supervisor and several trainers.

17. Does the program offer supported or independent living assistance?

The day program works with supported living to reinforce the skills that have been identified on the consumers ISP. Being a small program, we can work very closely with the consumer and his support team on basic independent living skills.

18. Can a consumer attend less than 35-40 hours per week? (Part time)

We fit the program to the person, not the other way around. We have several part-timers who usually come in 3 days a week.

19. Does the program offer evening and/or weekend activities?

We have camp-outs (Camp Runamucca); participate in street fairs and festivals, and parades. We attend meetings and conferences not only for self advocacy but city council and board of supervisors meetings as well.

20. Does program offer life skills training (money handling, traffic safety)?

Yes.

21. Do consumers have computer access? If so, for games? internet access?

Our Computer lab features five on-line cubicles for student use.

22. Does program participate in Special Olympics?

We have 3 consumers who regularly participate. The entire program participates in the track & field events.

23. Does program have own source of transportation?

We have our own bus we pick up people up with. And we are vendored for transport.

24. What are the regular program hours?

Not answered.

25. What other community resources/business are located around the program site?

We are off the beaten track, but we do teach access to the library, parks, public pools, etc.

26. What is the program's involvement in the self advocacy movement?

We have always been strong supporters of Self-Advocacy. The Tuolumne Chapter of People First hold their monthly meetings at Thumbs Up!. Two of our consumers sit on the Self Advocacy Council VI. SAC VI serves as Consumer Advocate for VMRC. Another one of our consumers has recently been appointed by the Board of Supervisors to represent Tuolumne County on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities Area Board 6. Our consumers not only regularly attend the SAC VI meetings and the CHOICES Convention, but they have helped make presentations and run workshops at these events as well. Each year we help host "The Dating Game" for the people First of California State-Wide convention. And have been their keynote presenters for the past 2 years.

27. Does the agency employ people with developmental disabilities?

We have consumers doing janitorial and housekeeping but have not used a person with developmental disabilities in key positions.

28. Info about the umbrella organization - how many programs, etc, is the agency private, for profit, or non-profit with a volunteer Board of Directors, is the agency local or headquartered in another area.

Helping Hands Home Services - Local, for-profit.

29. What are the typical demographics of your program?

We have consumers from the age of 21 to their mid-50's, a mix of different functioning levels, slightly more males.

30. How does the program view and relate to personal relationships between participants?

We have relationship training and encourage healthy relationships. We have married consumers and consumers who date one another. We've even had blind dates and double dates. Staff is trained by Easter Seals and is card carrying sex and relationship trainers.